

Wolf Pack welcomes new group commander



Photo by 1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan, 8th FWIPA

Col. Michael Gardiner took command of the 8th Support Group May 9.

By 1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Col. Michael Gardiner took command of the 8th Support Group in a ceremony May 9. Gardiner comes to the Wolf Pack from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Gardiner's goals while at Kunsan are to, "continue providing outstanding combat support to the 8th Fighter Wing and to make a positive difference for the men and women of the wing."

According to Gardiner, the 8th SPTG as a whole also has a few goals.

"The 8th Support Group has three big challenges over the next 12 months," he said. "We're focusing on fixing Kunsan's infrastructure to the best of our ability with limited resources, providing support to the wing as the transition into night operations continues, and proving the 8th Fighter Wing is outstanding in next spring's unit compliance inspection."

Gardiner also added the following: "I'm very fortunate and lucky to be at Kunsan with such a great group of talented people. In the first week that I've been here, I've seen the most awesome display of morale and dedication in my 21 years in the Air Force."



On May 20, 1950, Armed Forces Day was first celebrated, replacing the separate commemoration days for each service as well as signifying the consolidation of all services under one governing body, the Department of Defense.

Commenting on the event, Gen. Omar Bradley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "The heritage of freedom must be guarded as carefully in peace as it was in war. Faith, not suspicion, must be the key to our relationships. Sacrifice, not selfishness, must be the eternal price of liberty. Vigilance, not appeasement, is the byword of living freedoms. Our armed forces in 1950—protecting the peace, building for security with freedom—are teamed for defense..."

Today, those comments are more meaningful in the Republic of Korea than anywhere else in the world. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated just one month before the invasion of South Korea by the North on June 25, 1950, when we were not teamed for defense. We cannot allow that to happen again.

Saturday is Armed Forces Day. I ask each of you to take a minute tomorrow to think about and try to truly understand our purpose for serving in Kunsan and to remember those who've passed before us. Each and every one of you plays a role in guarding peace and freedom on the peninsula, and without you, we couldn't succeed.

May God have mercy on the Wolf Pack's prey.

Kunsan medics first to earn Army badge

By 1st Lt. Kelly Cahalan
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Four Kunsan Air Base medics became the first-ever 8th Medical Group team to compete for the Army's coveted Expert Field Medical Badge, the highest peacetime medical award given in the military.

Maj. Mark Uyehara, 8th MDG dentist; Capt. Michael Hobson, 8th MDG physical therapist; Capt. Joe Sky, 8th MDG flight surgeon and Capt. Tammy Hayes, 8th MDG nurse all traveled to Warrior Base, near the demilitarized zone, for the annual competition that occurred Apr. 6-16.

"The Army allows the Air Force to compete for the badge," said Hobson. "But because of the low pass rate, not very many take up the challenge."

The two-week competition tests an individual's ability to perform a number of critical tasks, including night/day navigation, emergency medical treatment, loading and unloading patients, radio operations, manual and litter patient carries, nuclear, biological and chemical environment survival, weapons skills, medical evacuation procedures, and a 12-mile road march.

There is no room for error in any of the areas. One error, including breaking a time limit on the navigation course or road march, results in immediate disqualification from the entire competition.

"The initial feeling by a lot of our sister-service compatriots was that we would never last," said Sky. But the Kunsan team held fast and at 100 percent until the very end.

Hobson and Sky both passed all the critical tasks and earned the EFMB.

"For the Army, eventually most medics will get the EFMB, but for Air Force medics, it's almost like right of passage because so few of us even have a chance to compete for it. The medal will help us stand out in the crowd," said Hobson.

After the competition, 2nd Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. Russel Honore, was impressed enough with the Wolf Pack's performance that he

requested the Army band to play the Air Force song.

"Unfortunately, the band leader didn't know the music," said Hobson.

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Capt. Michael Hobson
8th Medical Group physical therapist

Pride of the Pack



Job: 8th Supply Squadron Inventory specialist

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Follow-on: Kadena Air Base, Japan

Family: Mother, Donellin Robins

Hobbies: Shopping, dancing and hangin out

Words of wisdom: "Within our dreams and aspirations, we find our opportunities."

The Pride of the Pack is nominated by his or her commander, first sergeant or supervisor, or any Wolf Pack member, for outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the mission. To nominate a Wolf Pack member, send a nomination to the individual's group commander.



Airman Tamara Sims